

COMMANDER'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY POLICY



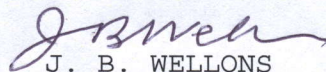
Every member of VMFAT-501 deserves to be treated in a manner consistent with the title, "United States Marine." As a Marine, you are entitled to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect. You are also entitled to be given opportunities to excel and reach your fullest potential, free from the barriers of discrimination. Finally, you are entitled to be treated without any bias based on race, creed, color, gender, or national origin.

Discrimination is the act of prejudging a person or group based on their race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or national origin. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. The foundation of the VMFAT-501 Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Policy is simple: **"Discrimination and sexual harassment will not be tolerated within this command."** Both are causes for disciplinary action that may result in a discharge from the Marine Corps or Navy.

All members of VMFAT-501 are encouraged to find solutions to discrimination or sexual harassment problems by using the **Squadron's Equal Opportunity Representative, GySgt Smith, and the Informal Resolution System**. If a situation remains unresolved, any Marine in this Command has the right to Request Mast. Furthermore, you have the right to present any legitimate complaint or grievance to the command without fear of reprisal. Finally, you have the responsibility to advise the command of any discrimination complaints and to submit only legitimate complaints or grievances.

If you have any questions regarding equal opportunity, contact GySgt Smith at (252) 665-4633, or use the Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Advice Line at (800) 253-0931, DSN 882-2507.

VMFAT-501 sits on the vanguard of Marine Aviation as we commence flight operations in the F-35B Lighting II. There is no place in this unit for discrimination and sexual harassment and I ask you to ensure that every Marine in this command is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.


J. B. WELLONS